

ant home and the luxurious bed on which you can lay your head every evening? Well then, just use Christ's expressions on present day sinners. Call them "hypocrites," "whited sepulchers full of dead men's bones," and say "Oh ye generation of vipers." If you persist in these very proper denunciations a crowd will follow you and kick you until soon you will have no place to lay your head. Undertake the task of reducing the crime and wickedness in a city with more than 100,000 inhabitants. Please attend a meeting of the city council and rebuke the mayor, alderman, and police in Christ's plain, unsparing way for not only allowing vice and lawlessness to exist, but also for using all their powers in defense and protection of sin. If you do this in the Master's way I will guarantee you persecution. You will find yourself promptly thrust into prison. If you keep on they will send you to a mad house and shut you up with lunatics where you will soon be ready to pray for death, even the death of the cross rather than such a life.

It is notorious that rich men nowhere pay taxes on all their property like the poor. Without exception they try to defraud government and thus load fearful burdens on the poor. Well-to-do members in church seldom give according to their ability to support the church, its missions and institutions. Some that gain from fifty to one hundred dollars a week come with ten or twenty-five cents on Sunday and give that as the Lord's portion. Now if you want to live a godly life and do good service for Christ just take Ananias for a text and preach to the wealthy like Peter did. Talk face to face and say, "Thou art the man." This will be a hard undertaking, but it will surely bring persecution. When we are trying to do good and instead of praise we receive cuffs and kicks we can rest assured we are living a godly life.

I have always found people quite ready to persecute anyone that undertakes the hard work of talking to our face about our sins and our phariseism. I find the reason so few clergymen are willing to make definite and specific attack on sins in their vicinity is they don't want to be railed at and cursed as they walk the streets. They prefer to talk on spiritual themes by parables, rather than offend some of the best paying members, or arousing the viscious until they stone the stained windows of the meeting house. If about one half the sermons were live, rattling reform products, they would bring many young men to divine service. The great majority of young men enjoy a battle with the lawless any day. There are two reasons why so few young men go to church. First, nearly all are needed down street, to fill the saloons, brothels and gambling dens, which the saint and sinner voter, almost to a man, says must be kept going. Secondly, there is such a thing as getting sermons too lofty and spiritual, too much in the ideal. The boys will fill the churches, if there is as much opportunity to catch enthusiasm for the bat-

tle against lawlessness and present-day vice, as there is to be inspired with the higher spiritual culture, and the glories of the life beyond.

I have all honor for the self-denying clergymen, who labor to have men confess Christ, and lead the professors to a better spiritual condition. But I also love the reformer, who says present-day evils must be resisted in such a radical way, as to bring "fire all along the line," no odds what blame or persecution is my lot, I love him because he is fearless, conscientious, and his integrity of purpose can never be questioned. I love him because he seeks battle with sin where it is dangerous, in a field where he knows reward and appreciation seldom come until he is dead and gone. With vice so abundant and defiant it seems to me we have hardly done our duty in this life, if we are so agreeable and easily pleased, that we do nothing that ever brings persecution. The apostle seemed to mean as much when he conveyed the idea that all who do their duty "shall suffer persecution."

THE PATIENT PLODDER

C. H. WETHERBE

The men who have accomplished wonders in this world were, for the most part, patient plodders. They were men of mental strength, men of high purposes, but it was not owing to any flashing brilliancy that they succeeded in the great executions which made them famous and the world larger and better; it was their unyielding steadfastness in doing thoroughly well, at all cost to themselves, the things which they were able to perform. A shining example of what patient plodding can accomplish is seen in the illustrious William Carey, concerning whom Dr. Wayland Hoyt says: "When Dr. Carey had demonstrated the feasibility of missions by many converts from the heathen and gathered into Christian churches; when he had translated and published the scriptures in many languages and dialects—forty is the number stated; when he had thus rendered the word of God accessible to three hundred millions of human beings; when, beside being what he always remained, a humble and devoted missionary, he had also been for thirty years an honored and successful professor in the Fort William College in Calcutta, founded and maintained by the English government for the education of the youth of the East when he was acknowledged chief scholar in the oriental languages, and when the wide world knew his fame—he said: "There is nothing remarkable in it; it only required perseverance." He said again to his nephew, Eustace: "If after my removal, any one should think it worth while to write my life I will give you a criterion how you may judge of its correctness. If he give me credit for being a plodder he will do me justice. Anything beyond this will be too much! I can plod, I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything."

It will not be denied that Dr. Carey possessed great intellectual powers; and yet he was doubtless right in saying that it was his patient plodding in the directions which he took that brought forth the magnificent results which stand to his account. And when I think of what he and such ones as he accomplished directly, and of what has grown out of the direct work, I say, behold the unspeakableness of even one man's productions!

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

S. B. BICKLEY

That there is a lack of Christian development on the part of many who profess Christ is evident; it is a sad reality. A man does not become a fully developed, perfect Christian as soon as he is converted. Not any more so than a child when born becomes a man in an instant. The child may be perfect, but it is only a child undeveloped. If the child has proper care and good, wholesome food it will develop into perfect manhood. But if it does not have food, care and protection instead of developing it will decay, retrograde and ultimately die. The same law exists relative to the spiritual condition of man. Conversion or regeneration implies birth, born again. Peter terms them new-born babes. A healthy child with good, healthful food and favorable surroundings will develop spontaneously, both physically and mentally. As soon as the child ceases to grow we become alarmed and we know something is wrong. We investigate and try to locate the trouble and if possible remove the cause. We are anxious to see the child mature. Are we as anxious to have our children grow spiritually—which are we the most concerned about, the spirit or the body? Oh, the babes there are in the churches. Men and women that have been in the church for a score of years, hobbling along, sickly, puny, timid. Poor things, God pity them. Scarcely living, merely existing, instead of being helpful to the church they are a burden, a constant annoyance to the pastor. The pastor that does not have some of those old babes to contend with is indeed fortunate and the pastor that has them on his hands and can use them to the glory of God is a grand success.

There are many things we may do to develop Christian character. To regularly and properly attend all the church services, prayer meeting, preaching services, Sabbath school, business meetings, those are helpful but to take an active part is much better. Visiting the sick and extending sympathy and, if necessary, aid those who are afflicted is good food for the soul. Try it.

Reading the Bible or, as Christ puts it, searching the scriptures is needful. Prayer is indispensable. We grow in grace only when we keep in touch with God who is the source of life. We can do this by constantly communing with Him. In II Peter 3:18 we have these words: Grow in grace and in